Sharing Exhaust



Two R.E. Columns Again Green Grand Prix Calendar of Events Braille Rally

Monthly Membership Meeting:

Wednesday, April 9, 7:00 PM
American Legion Hall, Liverpool





- Karl Hughes photo





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Snarling Exhaust

April 2008

The Central New York Region of the Sports Car Club of America

CNY Region website: www.cny-scca.com

SCCA National office: 1.800.770.2055

The Snarling Exhaust is published 11 or 12 times per year as a service to the membership of the Central New York Region of the Sports Car Club of America, Inc.

The deadline for submissions is the 25th of the month. This deadline still applies to the R.E., even though he keeps forgetting to pick up the Snarling at the printer.

All editorial opinions expressed in this publication are solely the opinions of the author, and are not necessarily representative of the policies of the Central New York Region or of SCCA.

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Classified advertising rates are free for region members, \$5/month for others, and must be paid in advance.

Graphics assistance courtesy of Alex Fairbank.

Cover photo by Joe Kramer, with some post-processing by Karl Hughes

From the Editor:

"So, what the heck happened to March?" you may be asking. It seems that our well-oiled publishing machinery went awry via a few complementary failures of the "system".

First, the printers changed their e-mail address, so my monthly delivery of the Snarling vanished into cyberspace, with nary a "bounce" message to signal its disappearance. Next, our esteemed RE didn't get notified by the printer that the Snar was ready, since they didn't receive it. Eventually, after getting rather cold standing forlornly at the mailbox day after day, I contacted Mike, who contacted the printer, who said "What Snarling?"

So I resent, only to have it re-disappear. This time I called the printer, who said "Hey, I bet you don't have our new e-mail!" Miraculously, the message went through when addressed to the correct place. By this time it was rather late in the month, and some of the timely information in the newsletter was well past its "use by" date.

Rumor has it you'll still be seeing it, perhaps around the time you're reading this column. If it's any consolation, Webmaster Evan Haas had it posted on our website within milliseconds of receiving it, so it was available to those with web access. Still, it's nice to open the mailbox and hold the printed copy in your hand...

In other news, there's also a rumor that nice weather is approaching, and with it another motorsports season. I understand that the Cherry Valley kart track has changed hands, and the new owner has plans to expand the track and create a paved paddock area. This should be a great development for both kart



Bob Purgason photo

racing and our local Solo program. We have several events scheduled for Cherry Valley, and I'm looking forward to returning.

The first event of the season will be at the New York State fairgrounds. Again, I've heard a rumor that I have been committed to doing the course design again, and I am being strongly advised from various directions to lay out a course similar to the last one we ran last season, which I'm told is the best course we've had there yet. So, that's the plan, and I hope you can come out and enjoy it.

Be seeing you, -Karl



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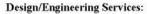
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April Fools

From the R.E., Mike Donofrio

Worry no more, the Snarling still exists! After last month's debacle you can rejoice and celebrate with a double issue for April. My apologies to anybody who has been camping out at their mailbox waiting for the latest issue to arrive. The good news is you can finally go back inside.

Although it is only April it is not too early to start thinking about the annual picnic. Usually held Onondaga Yacht Club, we have some suggestion to hold it at Cherry Valley Motorsports Park. This would allow us to combine our conventional picnic with some go kart racing. If you want to join in on the conversation attend this months meeting on April 9th.

It looks like we have the option to return to Seneca Army Depot for a joint Solo event with the Glen Region. It would be a 2 day event with 2 different courses with entrants driving both courses each day. However we will need to round up some people to attend the event. It will require plenty of workers to make something like this happen. It would be nice to gauge the interest within the club. If this interests you please send an email to Solo Chair Mark Bizzozero boz998@twcny.rr.com and give him your thoughts.

Speaking of Solo the first event is just around the corner April 27th at the New York State Fairgrounds. Now is a good time to check and make sure helmets are current, numbers and letters are prepared, etc... Most importantly keep your schedule clear for not only this one, but also the rest of the events all season long.

Check the website for the most current and up to date schedule at

www.cnyscca.com.



As always I encourage everybody to attend our General Membership Meeting or any other club function. Meetings are always the second Wednesday of every month at the American Legion in Liverpool at 7:00pm, so there is no reason to forget. Besides drinks and snacks are on the club, and that's no April fools joke!



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Speed Secrets

From the Assistant R.E., Jon Coffin

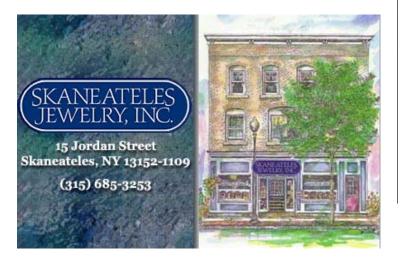
Most of your know most of this stuff, but none of us know all of it, and all of us have forgotten some of it!

I went to a performance driving seminar with Ross Bentley recently, and it was great. I learned a lot and was reminded of more. Bentley emphasizes that to perform better, to drive better, we need more, good quality information that we process more efficiently and that we put into action efficiently. Writing this helps me cement these ideas for myself, and motivates me to put them to work.

He offered a simple visual exercise, which really is an exercise for your eyes, which are very important, ahem, when you're driving. Rather than try to describe it in written words, ask me to show you when you see me. I need the exercise. Bentley asserts strongly that the simple activity, which doesn't take much time, will increase the quality of your visual inputs while driving, if practiced regularly. How 'bout that?!

He also talked about (oh yeah, this was a five-hour seminar with about 115 people which seemed to go by quickly with little disruption from a room full of hero drivers) getting our heads together. Really! Our brain is in halves, the left and right hemispheres, with, generally, different strengths, split by a nerve cord, and our brain halves aren't always working in sync. So, whatever power our brain has, let's at least get it together while driving.

He offered a simple, physical exercise which he says, and he provided demonstrations, increases the coordination of our brain. Amazing. And, I believe him! Am I gullible, or what? (Don't tell me





the answer.) Anyway, like the eye exercise, I am not going to try to put into words on this page how to do the exercise. But I'm happy to share it with anyone who asks, and don't be surprised at the autocrosses, if it looks like, for a few seconds anyway, that I'm walking REALLY funny. I'm gonna try it.

And while Bentley talked a fair amount about formula car racing experiences, he also gave examples of how these techniques have worked in sports car racing, stock cars, go-karts and...and...autocrossing.

Ross Bentley's book "Inner Speed Secrets explains it. Moving ahead, (or, is that "moving a head"?), we'll be at the New York State Fairgrounds shortly for our first-of-the-season Solo, so let's get Sizzlin'!

-Jon Coffin







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Membership Korner

From the Membership Chair, Joe Kramer

As one of my first actions as your new membership chairman, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate those members with significant anniversaries in 2007. A glitch in the proceedings prevented presentation of the service awards at the annual banquet in January. The presentation will be rescheduled. I also want to welcome our newest members to the CNY region.

2007 Anniversaries:

- 5 Years:
 - o Mark Bizzozero
 - Anthony Donofrio
 - o Carl Van Kesteren
- 10 Years:
 - o David Deem
 - o Brian Hidy
 - o Benoit Lacasse
 - o Bruce Parker
 - Richard Shaughnessy
 - Joanne Shaughnessy
 - Michael Zingaro



- 20 Years:
 - o Brian Hidy
- 25 Years:
 - Lori Newcomb
- 30 Years:
 - John Goss
 - Paul McCreery
 - o T. J. Shaughnessy
- New Members:
 - Deborah Dinehart
 - Jack Dinehart
 - o Robert Sgarlata (Welcome Back!)
 - Nathan Walczyk





Watkins Glen, N.Y. – Drivers of alternate fueled vehicles and hybrids have a unique opportunity to put their vehicles to the test and have a lot of fun while doing it at the 4th Annual Green Grand Prix in Watkins Glen.

Entries are now being accepted for the May 3

event's unique time-speed-distance road rally through the beautiful Finger Lakes Region of Central New York. The rally is the only road rally for alternate fueled vehicles and hybrids in the United States sponsored by the Sports Car Club of America.

The SCCA has a long association with worldrenowned Watkins Glen, which is marking 60 years of competitive racing. This year's 4th Annual Green Grand Prix is hosted by the International Motor Racing Research Center, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2008.

The rally, over miles of scenic roadways, is one of the highlights of the day-long Green Grand Prix, based in downtown Watkins Glen at the Racing Research Center. After they return to the

village, rally drivers and their navigators will join the public in a variety of educational activities throughout the afternoon.

The Doris Bovee Memorial Road Rally is named in memory of a well-known area environmentalist. Bovee taught for many years in the Corning-Painted Post Area School District and was known for her love of plants and birds. She also was involved with SCCA road rallies and was part of the Glen Region SCCA at its inception.

The rally brings together a diverse mix of hybrid and alternate fueled vehicles (AFVs) and their owners, businesses promoting renewable energy and related products, environmental groups, students and faculty members from elementary to university level and the general public.

"This fun and exciting educational event emphasizes energy independence and a cleaner environment," said Green Grand Prix founder Robert Gillespie, an area artist and hybrid owner who is passionate about increasing awareness of the vehicles.

"The Green Grand Prix gives people an opportunity to learn first-hand about alternative personal transportation and renewable energy initiatives. It's quite fulfilling to see how it grows in scope and size each year," Gillespie said.

Corporate entries in the 2007 road rally
Continued on page 9

Region Events Calendar

April 9	Membership meeting
April 27	Solo - Fairgrounds
May 14	Membership meeting
May 18	Solo - Fairgrounds

June 8 Solo – TBD

June 11 Membership meeting
July 20 Solo - Cherry Valley
July 9 Membership meeting
August 3 Solo - Fairgrounds

Sept 6 Solo - Cherry Valley Night

Oct 5 Solo - Cherry Valley

Membership meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Liverpool American Legion Post 188 205 Cypress St. in the village of Liverpool

Continued from page 8

included Toyota, Lexus, Honda, General Motors, Ford, the Indy Racing League, the Windshield Installation Network, Autoglass Insurance Co., Magi LLC and the Ethanol Promotion Information Council, EPIC.

In addition to hybrid and flexible fuel vehicles, organizers expect many other interesting AFVs, including a hydrogen-powered car, a wood-powered SUV and a vegetable oil-powered car, as well cars fueled by bio-diesel, electricity, LP and compressed natural gas.

Cars begin the rally at the historic Glen Motor Inn on Route 14 north of Watkins Glen. The rally is conducted at legal highway speeds. All afternoon activities are centered at the Racing Research Center on South Decatur Street, including at adjacent facilities of the Watkins Glen Central School District.

The Wayne Technical and Career Center in Williamson, N.Y., will be bringing its student-made portable energy lab, which includes solar panels and a wind generator. Also featured will be an Electrathon electric race car from Baker High School in Baldwinsville, N.Y.

Organizers are expecting exhibited cars to

include an electric vehicle built in 1914.

A panel discussion will address a host of sustainability issues, and Cornell University's X-Prize Team, which has been working on a 100 mpg mass-producible car, is expected to do a presentation on its project.

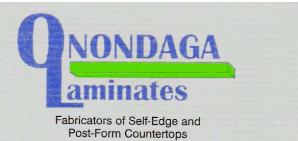
Winners of the AFV design contest for young students, now in its third year, will receive their awards, as will participants in the morning road rally.

The Racing Research Center staff will be giving tours of the Center and discussing their work preserving the history of motorsports. The Center collects all types of materials on all series of racing and at all tracks, worldwide.

"Our partnership with the Green Grand Prix this year is a natural," Center Director of Archives & Administration Mark Steigerwald said. "Our archives clearly show how racing – and therefore transportation – has evolved over the decades. The innovative people who took the risks 100 years ago are the forerunners of the people we see participating in the Green Grand Prix each year."

For complete details about the Green Grand Prix, visit its Web site at www.greengrandprix.com. Registration information for the Doris Bovee Memorial Road Rally is available there.

Learn more about the International Motor Racing Research Center at its Web site, www.racingarchives.org. The Glen Region of the SCCA has its Web site at www.glen-scca.org.



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Book Review: Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Book by Ian Fleming, review by Karl Hughes

Many people recognize Ian Fleming as the author of the James Bond books, but fewer know him as the author of the wonderful children's book "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang".

Written in 1964, the book takes its title and central

character from the cars built and driven by Count Louis Zborowski in the 1920s. Zborowski built three cars bearing the Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

name – specials with WWI-vintage aero engines. He campaigned these cars at Brooklands, went on to drive Aston-Martins, Bugattis, and even a Miller at Indianaopolis. He eventually joined the Mercedes factory team, and was killed at Monza in 1924.

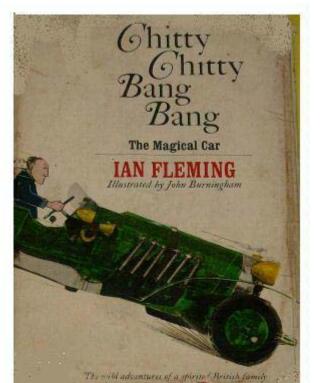
Chitty Chitty Bang Bang lives on in Fleming's book, a delightful tale of an English inventor and a car he rescues from the "breaker's yard".

Commander Caractacus Potts invents a new candy design, sells the rights to a candy manufacturer, and treats the family to a new motorcar with some of the profits.

Being an eccentric inventor, he cannot simply buy a car, but opts instead to resurrect former "Grand Prix" car the family discovers jst as it is about to be sold for scrap. The car turns out to have some truly unusual options, as well a mind of its own, and takes the family on

an adventure across England to Dover, and thence across the Channel to Calais.

This is a children's book, suitable for all ages. Fleming manages to write about adventure, danger, and automobiles without gratuitous violence, or unsuitable language, even though he weaves underworld villains, kidnapping and robbery into the plot.



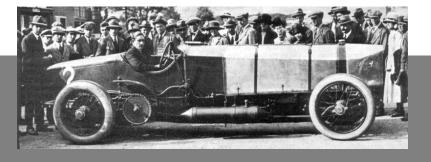
This is a great story to read to small children, for reading by slightly older children, and for much older children with a liking for a finely-crafted story that centers around a wonderful car.

The movie adaptation significantly changes the story, and the car, and while perhaps good entertainment, should be considered to have no connection to the book whatsoever.

This book can be found through used book sellers, and was still in print as recently as a couple of years ago.

I would recommend locating a good used copy with the dust cover intact, because of the delightful color illustration by John Burningham, whose line drawings are sprinkled throughout the text.







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